

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 14, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman  
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee  
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee  
Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee  
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee  
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee  
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee  
Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative  
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee

**Members Absent:**

Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative  
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee

**Staff Present:**

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
Denise Akins, County Administrative Office  
Will Jackson, County Counsel

**Members of the Public who voluntarily provided their names on the attendance sheet:**

Carole Clum  
Michael Hickey  
Richard Garcia  
Jake Raper  
Bob Irvine  
Steve Stadler

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

2. Public Comment Period

Carole Clum of Three Rivers provided with Commissioners with two handouts. The first is an article from the September 2013 issue of Scientific American Magazine about using bacteria, viruses, and fungi from the soil to act as fertilizers and pesticides. The second is an article from the October 2013 issue of the Christian Science Monitor Weekly Reports on researchers finding high levels of barium, benzene, chlorides, strontium, radium, and other contaminants in the water and sediments of streams where wastewater treatment plants were treating "produced water" from hydraulically fractured gas and oil wells. See attachment for comment.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2013 meeting

Motion to table minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Commission Boyer Second by Commissioner Keller. Motion approved.

4. Presentation on the Water Database GIS Action Plan by Jake Raper, RMA and Peg Yeates, TCICT.

Peg Yeats of TCICT provided an overview of what is trying to be accomplished with the presentation. She stated the department is seeking direction from the Water Commission. Some of the questions that have

risen are if the intent of the Commission is to provide data to the public. Is the intent to share the data with other government partners? She shared that since 2004 the GIS team has been collecting water well data. Technology has since advanced to the point where GIS information can be shared using common browsers. Today staff with GIS software have access to the data. It is possible in the next 3-6 months with some GIS effort and programming to make the data available to internal County departments via the Web. At this time for security reasons no data will be made available for public consumption. All of this data will be manually or automatically gathered from various state local, and federal sources. She stated that possible uses for the data are water quality, water quantity, flood control, historical analysis, etc. Staffing costs need to be analyzed in order to move forward. Development of a complete database is needed as well as a user portal, and presentation of layers. The PALMS project could possibly support the infrastructure required to provide information to the internet.

Jake Raper, RMA provided closing comments. He thanked staff for putting the presentation together. He also provided an overview of the PALMS project that the county has invested in. Three budget cycles ago the CAO office authorized the new PALMS program. The palms project is really based upon the enterprise GIS system. What the Commission saw today is really the power of the enterprise GIS system that the county will use as part of the PALMS system. Many agencies can utilize the palms program. RMA staff and the staff from the Technology department really have the expertise to take the project to the next step forward in bringing a lot of this information into the electronic age. As the Commission saw in the presentation, there are a lot of things to work through, one being Privacy.

Commissioner Schafer mentioned that the third party is required to identify at least four wells and possibly more in each township within the area represented by the third party. The third party is typically a public district or an authority or perhaps a nonprofit corporation. With that kind of an agency, is the data available for those folks to utilize the well information that the county has in their program?

Michael Hickey, TCiCT/GIS, shared that GIS is the holder of data, but not the 'data owner'. The County must follow the confidentiality requirements imposed by the various 'data owners'; different owners impose different requirements. Properly, the County should have data sharing agreements with each 'data owner'. For example, the California Department of Public Health considers water quality measures of public water systems to be public information, but considers information about well location to be highly confidential. GIS has not incorporated the location data obtained by Denise Akins because GIS does not have an MOU with the state regarding well location. GIS has a desire to provide all the data it has assembled, in a manner that does not violate 'data owner' confidentiality requirements.

Commissioner Schafer asked who Mr. Hickey thought should prepare the MOU.

Denise Akins stated that the MOU currently in place is between the state and county. It is the state's agreement that the county entered into.

Jake Raper commented that for a new program, it seems that it would be a new MOU or a modified MOU.

Commissioner Schafer stated that within Tulare County there will probably be at least three or more third parties representing the land owner.

Michael Hickey suggested that the 'third parties' of the Irrigated Lands Management Program ought to pursue establishing data sharing agreements with the various state agencies that would allow Tulare County GIS to share the data it has assembled with these third parties.

Peg Yeats suggested working with County Counsel to see what it would take to move forward. Discussion followed.

## 5. Update on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantage Community Water Study

Denise Akins shared that there will be a Pilot Stakeholder Advisory Group (PSAG) meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> to review the Management and Non-infrastructure Solutions Draft. There will also be a PSAG meeting in December to review the Individual Household Solution Pilot.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Schafer stated that with respect to the nitrate study he is very anxious to get into the GIS program. He asked if the commission can use the data without any confidential report because they are part of the County.

Michael Hickey commented that it would not violate confidentiality.

Commissioner Schafer shared that he would like to see a study that shows the same information that Harter provided to come up with his conclusions and then develop our own data. He asked Mr. Hickey if he could assist and if together they could develop the information under the nitrate study. Discussion followed.

## 7. Staff Reports

None at this time.

## 8. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Schafer shared that Commission Paul Boyer is a candidate for the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He asked if the Commission or the Board of Supervisor could do anything to support his appointment.

Commissioner Boyer stated that a letter of support from any person or agency that wishes to would help.

Commissioner Schafer suggested the Commission suggest to the Board of Supervisors to submit letter to the Governor supporting Paul Boyer to the appointment of the Regional Board.

Chairman Ishida asked Denise Akins to draft two letters. Denise will place the letter from the Board of Supervisor on the agenda for October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 9. Next meeting – Monday, December 9, 2013, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

## 10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.